

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009  
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance**

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor
CM Alice C. Ewen	Ward 1
CM Alan Thompson	Ward 2
CM David Lingua	Ward 3
CM Christopher Henry	Ward 4
CM Raymond Rivas	Ward 5

Town Administrator- Ms.Sara Imhulse

Police Department – Chief Teresa Chambers

Director of Public Works – Mr. Leonard Addison

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

**Approval of Agenda**

CM Lingua motioned to approve the agenda.

CM Thompson Second

Motion passes 4-0

Discussion: Mayor Archer deferred his report to hear the presentation by Joyce Engineering. CM Lingua moved to move Legislative Item #4 after Joyce Engineering presentation. CM Rivas second. Motion passes 5-0.

Presentation by Joyce Engineering requesting access driveway for Litton Building (M-Square)

- Mike Lyles explained to Mayor and Council where the driveway will be placed and the low impact that it would have on the environment and community. A County permit for the driveway is not needed (less than 5000 sq ft of impediment) but Joyce Engineering came to ask the Town of Riverdale Park if they would like to issue a permit for this project as a courtesy and form of approval.
- Mayor Archer brought up a few concerns: bus traffic and effects on current drainage. Mike explained that they have plans that accommodate bus traffic that he can provide the Mayor and Council. He also explained that there will be NO effects on storm water drainage. Sara Imhulse explained that the Town's engineers disagree with the claim that there will be no effects on storm water drainage. The Town's engineers state that there is a natural 'swell' that occurs in that area. Mr. Addison requests more details about when the driveway will be finished and what type of vehicles will be parked there. Mike answered that this driveway will not be used as a construction site and that construction vehicle will not be parked there.
- CM Rivas asked Mike to define temporary'. Mike stated that Joyce Engineering is in the preliminary stages of planning the Litton Bldg and that he does not know how long the driveway will be needed. It could take one year or two years, etc.
- CM Thompson and CM Ewen would like to wait for more details and a response from Sara Imhulse regarding questions that the town has.

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**Mayor's Report**

( Please refer to New Business For Mayor's Report.)

*This concludes the Mayor's Report*

**Treasurer's Report**

Sara Imhulse submitted the Treasurer's Report previously.

Budget as of November 31, 2008: Revenue = \$3,021,936.39, Expenses = \$1,694,978.61

CM Thompson moved to approve the treasurer's report subject to audit.

CM Ewen Second

Motion passes 5-0

*This concludes the Treasurer's Report*

**Town Administrator's Report**

- Please let the Town Administrator know if you are not getting the Town Crier.
- [www.riverdaleparkmd.gov](http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov) – New website coming soon!
- Thanked Town Staff for helping out with the children's celebration.
- Wished everyone a Happy Holiday!

*This concludes the Town Administrator's Report*

**Police Department Report**

- New speed camera is up. Karen Arias, new employee, was hired to head up the speed camera project on Good Luck Road.
- Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Clay Alford, new community police officer, will be focusing on traffic related problems and enforcement.

Discussion: CM Henry asked if there are signs on Good Luck Rd. to warn residents about the speed cameras. Chief Chambers replied that there are signs posted to warn residents of the speed cameras.

**Code Enforcement Issues**

*This concludes the Police Department Report*

**Public Works Report**

- Happy Holidays!
- Christmas Eve is on a Thursday and there **WILL** be trash collection. There will **NOT** be any Saturday drop off of bulk trash on December 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Leaf Collection – Residents have to move your vehicles if you are parked near piles of leaves. The truck cannot navigate to perform the leaf collection while the cars are blocking it

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Discussion: CM Ewen asked if Mr. Addison could remind residents of which side of the street to park on when there is snow. Mr. Addison responded that residents should park in a private place if accessible. If you can't park your car off of the street than park it on the EVEN SIDE of the street.

*This concludes the Public Works Report*

**Fire Department Report**

- Welcomed Sara Imhulse.
- Volunteer coverage for the month of November – 5days total (7am – 3am). Included 3 Holidays.
- New pumper has been delivered. Financing was worked out by the fire department. The new pumper will be out the evening of December 24<sup>th</sup> for the Santa Claus run.
- Ambulance billing with the County is now automated using Tough book.
- Speed bumps on Lafayette Ave – Currently working with Mayor on recommendations.
- WSSC – Working with WSSC about fire hydrant testing.
- There were NO significant events to take place in the month of November.
- Have a safe Holiday Season!

Discussion: CM Henry asked about a report on the fire hydrants. The fire department is working with WSSC to come up with a report. CM Lingua asked Steve what type of problems he is having with WSSC. Steve responded that there are a lot of conflicts internally and they are unresponsive.

*This concludes the Fire Department Report*

**Ward and Committee Reports**

**Ward 1, CM Ewen, Economic Development Committee**

- Festival of Lights, December 12<sup>th</sup> – includes Holiday Baked Goods Contest, Trolley ride and Farmer's Market.
- Bike Trail – CM Ewen stated that this project is a top priority for Ward 1.
- Town Center Committee – Neighborhood design center, Jan Townsend's group, is going to do some layout and planning for some of the proposed use scenarios.
- Tree Canopy – This is a good time to plant trees. The State is offering a \$25 subsidy toward the purchase of a tree. Residents can get the \$25 rebate online or by picking up the State brochure at Town Hall.

*This concludes Ward 1, CM Ewen Report*

**Ward 2, CM Thompson, Finance Chairman Committee**

- Finance Committee met this month. Discussed: revenue cuts from the State, audit report, comprehensive benefits review, improving efficiency in the Town, and buying new financial software. Next meeting in January.
- Reorganization mtg of the Masterpiece Garden. They are experiencing State budget cuts.
- Attended the ribbon cutting at Wachovia Bank

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- Attended the Veteran's Day Celebration
  
- Children's Holiday Party – enjoyed with kids
- Farmer's Market – purchased fresh bread, eggs, etc. Nice to have that available.
- Wished CM Lingua happy birthday.
- Have a safe and Happy Holiday!

*This concludes Ward 2, CM Thompson's Report*

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Safety Committee

- Public Safety Committee Mtg. – upcoming Saturday public safety mtg. is tentative at Town Hall, next mtg. will be on December 17<sup>th</sup> @4pm at Town Hall.
- There was a fire at University Gardens that affected a family of five. CM Lingua suggests that residents review an article in the Town Crier that talks about fire safety during the holidays.
- Purple Line meetings – CM Lingua encouraged residents to attend these meetings to better understand the project and ask questions. Michael Madden will meet at Town Hall to discuss the two stops in Riverdale at the Central Revitalization Steering Committee on January 7<sup>th</sup> @7:15pm.
- Thanked Town Staff and Sara Imhulse for making it all possible.

*This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report*

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Works Committee

- Hope that everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving as well as a safe and happy Holiday season. We are looking forward to the Santa Clause run.
- Thanks to the EPW director and his team.

*This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report*

Ward 5, CM Rivas, Community Affairs Committee

- Thanked everyone for coming out to the Children's Holiday party.
- Reminds residents of the Festival of Lights and the Riverdale Park Holiday party.
- If you see any suspicious activities please contact your local police or dial 911.

*This concludes Ward 5, CM Rivas Report*

Ward 5, CM Allen-Smith, Community Affairs Committee

*This concludes Ward 6, CM Allen-Smith Report*

**Public Comments**

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**Legislative Action**

**1. Approval of minutes from regular legislative meeting held on November 2, 2009.**

CM Thompson moved to accept the minutes from the legislative meeting held on November 2, 2009.

CM Lingua Second

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: CM Ewen stated that there were some name updates on the last page that were submitted to staff. Change 'ward 6' to 'ward 5' under CM Rivas' report.

**2. Approval for minutes from the Special Legislative meeting held on November 30, 2009.**

CM Henry moved to accept the minutes from the Special Legislative meeting held on November 30, 2009.

CM Thompson Second

Motion passes 5-0

**3. Discussion on an amendment for Chapter 36 of the Town Code.**

Nothing to read into record.

**4. Approval of special event permit for Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Celebration on Saturday, December 12, 2009, held at 4700 Saints Bernard's Drive.**

CM Lingua moved to approve the special event permit for Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Celebration on Saturday, December 12, 2009, held at 4700 Saints Bernard's Drive.

CM Thompson Second

Motion passes 4-1 (CM Rivas voted in opposition)

Discussion: George, a member of St. Bernard's, explained how the celebration will take place. CM Rivas asked if the sale of beer and wine in the church is necessary. George explained that this is a tradition that happens every year and that the funds from the sale of the beer and wine will go toward the repair of the church's boiler system. CM Thompson asked Chief Chambers if she had any questions about this application. Chief Chambers stated that she feels comfortable with the approval of this event. CM Henry asked how many people they expect to attend this event. George responded approximately 200. The church has its own securities in place to help prevent people coming into the celebration already under the influence of alcohol. The police presence (two officers) will be the back up for the church's internal controls.

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**New Business**

- Mayor Archer posed the following questions for discussion: What kind of protection would the Town want if the M-Square project develops differently than what was presented to the Town? What are the Town's outstanding wants for this project? How are they treating the tree canopy?

Discussion: CM Thompson would like to stay on top of the parcel 14. Residents whose houses face the pond will be looking at the tail end of that building. CM Thompson recommends a buffer like a small public space where people can appreciate the pond placed. Also, the placement of the station for the Purple Line had been approved by the Town previously and has now been changed and is currently planned to be located where Town Council had voted on. CM Ewen added that she would like to explore the wants of the University of MD; tree canopy increased beyond what is required by the State and to have trails integrated for residents and workers in the area. This issue will be added to the work session on December 21<sup>st</sup>. CM Lingua presented the development timeline: Sept 25<sup>th</sup> – Submission of preliminary plan for re-subdivision and the submission of design site plan for 4400, 4500 and 4600 River Road, January 7<sup>th</sup> – Preliminary Plan Board Hearing, February 18<sup>th</sup> – 4600 site plan certification building permit application due, Construction will start on the March 13<sup>th</sup>. Residents will be alerted of the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting through Town Talk and any other means the Town has.

- Speed Camera and Red Light Camera – There has been a hesitancy to incorporate any budget numbers (income) from this project. CM Thompson recommended amending the budget during the Legislative Meeting in March 2010. CM Henry stated that the message is not to accumulate funds for the Town but to save lives by reducing speeding in the area.
- Tangible Property Tax Amnesty – The Mayor stated that residents that are in arrears will be granted an extra 60 days to catch up.
- Request for a motion for Resolution 2009-R-18 – Policing and Upkeep of the Bike Trail.

CM Ewen moved to accept Resolution 2009-R-18.

CM Thompson second.

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: CM Ewen would like to change the words to the third 'Where as' "has expressed interest in taking responsibility for safety and cleanliness of the trail." This is NOT the MOU itself. The Council will review final language in the MOU.

- CM Ewen moved to have the Town of Riverdale Park send a letter of support to Maryland Department of Natural Resources to be included in an upcoming grant proposal from Maryland DNR and the University of Maryland for tree canopy assessment and benefits analysis which would include Riverdale Park among the municipalities in the study area and that the letter be sent to DNR by the December 9<sup>th</sup> response deadline.

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CM Henry Second  
Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: Maryland DNR will be cooperating with the University of MD to perform a canopy analysis, prioritization of tree planting and benefit analysis that would give the Town and other communities a chance to compete for funding from Chesapeake Bay Trust to do more tree planting work.

- CM Lingua asked Sara Imhulse, regarding Chapter 35 (Dance Hall permits), if we had tacked down when we can expect that portion of the county code for Council to study. Sara responded that the County Code is in: Definition - Section 5-197, License Requirement and Fees – Section 5-198, Enforcement and Penalties – Section 5-2000.04 and the Termination of the Use and Occupancy Permit – Section 27-257.01. Sara will e-mail this info to Council tomorrow.

**Unfinished Business**

**Adjournment**

CM Lingua move to adjourn 10:08pm  
CM Henry Second  
Motion passes 5-0

Typed from tape 12-07-09.